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his concurrence. Any inquiry that Mr. Panizzi might have chosen to make as to the results and details of that computation would, at all times, have received the most immediate and complete answer.

Report of the Proceedings of the Council for the past year.

The principal business of public interest which has occupied the attention of the Council relates to the extension of accurate magnetical and meteorological observations in different parts of the world.

A communication having been made by Lieut. William Denison, of the Royal Engineers, of a proposal from General Mulcaster, Inspector-General of Fortifications, that the officers of engineers generally should be employed, under the direction of the Royal Society, in promoting the advancement of science, by carrying on connected series of observations relating to Natural History, Meteorology, Magnetism, and other branches of physical science, and suggesting an application to Government for a grant of funds necessary for effecting so desirable an object; a Committee was appointed to consider of the proposed measure, and of the means of carrying into effect the recommendations contained in the letter of Baron Von Humboldt, addressed in April last to His Royal Highness the President. Conformably with the report made by this Committee, the Council fixed on the ten following places, namely, Gibraltar, Corfu, Ceylon, Hobart Town, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Newfoundland, Toronto, Bagdad, and the Cape of Good Hope, as being the most eligible for carrying on magnetic observations according to the plan recommended by Baron Von Humboldt; those places being permanent stations, where officers of engineers and clerks are always to be found. The Council also determined that, for the present, the observations of magnetism may be limited to those of the direction of the magnetic needle, and the meteorological observations restricted to those made on the four days, and in the manner recommended in Sir John Herschel's instructions.

A grant of 500*l*. from the public funds has since been obtained from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in aid of the purchase of the necessary instruments for carrying on the magnetic observations, according to the plan proposed by the Committee, and under the directions of the Royal Society.

A statement having been also laid before the Council by Mr. Christie of the importance of a more accurate determination than has hitherto been made of the variation of the magnetic needle at several points on the coasts and in the interior of Great Britain and Ireland, and likewise of the dip and of the intensity of terrestrial magnetism, the Council, fully concurring in these views, presented to the Lords of the Admiralty a strong recommendation that steps should be taken for carrying into effect the course of observations pointed out by Mr. Christie; and their Lordships have in consequence appointed a Committee to meet and examine into this important subject.

The Council having deemed it desirable that the difference of level

between the brass mark fixed by Capt. Lloyd on the north-east landing stairs of the New London Bridge, and Mr. Bevan's mark on the basement of the pilasters of the north-east landing stairs of Waterloo Bridge, should be accurately determined, requested Sir John Rennie to undertake this determination. Sir John Rennie has reported to the Council that, after repeated trials, the greatest variation of which did not exceed two-tenths of an inch, he found that the mark on Waterloo Bridge is 3 feet and 1.65 inches above that on New London Bridge.

The Council have awarded the Copley Medal of this year to M. Becquerel for his various Memoirs on the subject of Electricity, published in the "Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de l'Institut de France", and particularly for those on the production of Crystals of Metallic Sulphurets and of Sulphur, by the long-continued action of electricity of very low tension, and published in the tenth volume of those Memoirs.

Among those who have been engaged in investigating the phænomena of electricity, M. Becquerel holds an eminent rank, and the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris bear ample testimony to the success which has attended his researches in this department of science. He appears early to have been sensible that, for the detection of phænomena which may occur at the instant of incipient molecular attraction, and which become masked by the more general effect of the transfer of the elements when powerful electric currents are employed, it was necessary to substitute for these currents of very low tension*. Following out this view, carefully adjusting the strength of the current to the power of the affinities brought into action, he succeeded, by electric decomposition, and by subsequent recomposition of the elements, in obtaining crystals of some of the metallic sulphurets, of sulphur, of the iodurets of lead and copper, of the insoluble sulphates of lime and barytes, of the carbonate of lead, and other substances, a few of which had previously, by other means, been obtained crystallized, but of which the great majority had only been recomposed in an amorphous state. In the Memoirs to which the Council have particularly adverted in the award of the Copley Medal to M. Becquerel, he had especially in view to explain, by the agency of electricity of very low tension, continued for an indefinite time, the oc-The succurrence of crystallized substances in mineral veins. cess with which his experiments were crowned in obtaining by such means crystals of the metallic sulphurets and of other substances, perfectly resembling those found abundantly in mineral veins, is favourable to the correctness of the views he had entertained; and these views derive additional support from the results obtained by others, in perfect accordance with his own, by means differing from those he employed, but involving precisely the same principles. Mr. Fox, in his experiments, which appear to have been

^{*} Annales de Chimie, tome xxxiv. p. 152. Mémoire lu à l'Académie Royale des Sciences, &c., 21 Aout, 1826.

conducted on a larger scale than those of M. Becquerel, endeavoured more closely to imitate the arrangements of nature, by introducing, between the substances acted on, walls of clay, in imitation of the "flucan courses" in the Cornish mines; these walls performing the same functions as the moistened clay in M. Becquerel's experiments; and he infers from his results, that the phænomena presented by the mineral veins of Cornwall are explicable on principles which are similar to those pointed out by M. Becquerel. It is thus rendered highly probable that the long-continued action of electricity of low tension has been at least one of the means by which crystallized bodies now existing in mineral veins have been produced.

But quite independently of the bearing of M. Becquerel's results on a question of great geological interest, the formation of crystals of metallic sulphurets and other substances by the agency of electricity was a great step in chemical science. As M. Becquerel very justly observes, the two branches of chemistry, analysis and synthesis, are at present in very different states. With the exception of crystals derived from aqueous solution,-which are by far the least abundant of natural crystals,—and a few from fusion, the great mass of crystallized bodies existing in nature had as yet remained inimitable by chemical processes. In the Memoirs referred to, not only are experiments described by which crystals of several of these substances have been obtained, but the principles are pointed out, by the application of which we may anticipate that large classes of others will be produced. M. Becquerel has thus opened a new field for inquiry and discovery, in which he has himself gathered the first fruits, but which still offers to future labourers the prospect of an abundant harvest of knowledge as regards both the recomposition of crystallized bodies, and also the processes which may have been employed by nature in the production of such bodies in the mineral kingdom.

A Copley Medal has been awarded to John Frederick Daniell, Esq., for his two papers on Voltaic Combinations, published in the

Philosophical Transactions for 1836.

The Council are desirous of testifying, by this award, their sense of the great value of Mr. Daniell's invention of a new form of the voltaic battery, capable of producing, for a considerable length of time, a perfectly equal and steady current of electricity. The principles on which his apparatus, which he terms the constant battery, is constructed, were the results of a series of well-devised experiments, directed to the discovery of the cause of those great and often rapid variations in the power of the ordinary battery, which have hitherto limited its utility when employed for purposes of philosophical research, and the removal of which has greatly extended the range and multiplied the applications of this powerful instrument of chemical analysis.

The train of reasoning that led Mr. Daniell to this discovery, originated in an inquiry which he undertook with the view of determining with precision the influence exerted by the different parts of the voltaic battery in their various forms of combination. For

this purpose he contrived an apparatus which he designates by the name of the dissected battery, and which consists of a series of cylindrical glass vessels capable of holding the fluid electrolyte, with a pair of metallic plates immersed in it, each plate communicating below by means of a separate wire, with a small quantity of mercury, as the medium of the various communications which may at pleasure be made with other metallic parts of the apparatus. This arrangement affords peculiar advantages for studying the difference of effect in reference to the quantity and the intensity of the electric current, consequent on the different modes of connecting the elements of the battery, and also the influence of retarding forces resulting from other modes of connexion. In the course of these researches Mr. Daniell, observing the great extent of negative metallic surface over which the deoxidating influence of the positive metal appeared to manifest itself, was induced to institute a more careful examination of the circumstances attending this class of phenomena, and was led to the discovery of the gradual deposition of zinc on the platina plates being the principal cause of the progressive decline of the power of the battery. It was then that the means of counteracting this tendency presented itself to his mind. His plan consists in the constant application of a solution of sulphate of copper to the copper surface, while, at the same time, diluted sulphuric acid is constantly applied to the zinc surface, on which it exerts an oxidating and a solvent power, and is constantly renovated as it becomes charged with zinc. The two fluids are separated from one another by a partition formed of membrane, or other porous substance, which prevents intermixture, but offers no obstacle to the transmission of galvanic action. Two principal objects are accomplished by this arrangement of the constituent parts of the battery; first, the removal out of the circuit of the oxide of zinc, the deposit of which gradually reduces, and at length suspends, the action of the ordinary battery; and secondly, the absorption of the hydrogen evolved upon the surface of the copper, without the precipitation of any substance tending to counteract the voltaic action of that surface.

The advantages likely to arise to science from the invention of the constant voltaic battery are numerous and important. Mr. Daniell has shown how it may be made to supply a measure of chemical affinity, and has applied it with effect in the investigation of the influence of changes of temperature on voltaic action. The construction of a constant battery of large dimensions, which he has recently completed, has already opened new views of the possible application to economical purposes of the powers of voltaic electricity, an agent of which the influence appears to be so energetic and so widely dif-

fused throughout nature.

The Council have adjudged one of the Royal Medals, in conformity with the announcement made in 1834, to Mr. Whewell, for his series of Researches on the subject of the Tides, which have been published in our Transactions during the last three years.

Mr. Whewell's researches have been chiefly directed to the three following points: first, the motion of the tide-wave at different points

of the ocean; secondly, the comparison of the observed laws at certain places with the theory; and lastly, the laws of the diurnal in-

equality of the tide.

It is to Mr. Lubbock that we are indebted for the first accurate comparison of the theory of the tides as given by Bernouilli in his treatise Du flux et reflux de la mer, with the results of observation as deduced from a period of nineteen years in the port of London. In this memoir, which was published in our Transactions for 1831, there was given a most elaborate discussion by Mr. Dessiou, under Mr. Lubbock's directions, of more than 13,000 observations, and the results were of great importance, not merely as furnishing the materials and the general rules for the construction of tide tables, but also for the general accordance which they exhibited with the equilibrium theory of Bernouilli, particularly with respect to the semimenstrual inequality. This agreement was the more important, as affording the indication of the real existence of a physical connection between the theory and observation, and as consequently justifying such a further examination of its consequences as might lead to the discovery or suggestion of such modifications of it as would lead to its general accordance with the laws of all the facts observed.

In a subsequent discussion of the tides of Liverpool, published in our Transactions in 1835 and 1836, Mr. Lubbock showed, as had partly indeed been suggested by Mr. Whewell in his papers on the empirical laws of the tides of London and Liverpool, that by referring the tide, not to the lunar transit immediately preceding, but to an anterior lunar transit, one, two, or more days before, that the formulæ furnished by the equilibrium theory would be brought into almost perfect accordance with the observed inequalities in the heights and times of the tides which are due to the changes in the moon's parallax. This was a most important step in the connexion between theory and observation, and has been found to apply, to a considerable extent, to all the periodical inequalities of the tides, though very different epochs are required for different inequalities. Thus Mr. Whewell has shown that the diurnal inequality in the heights of high and low water, which is due to the change in the moon's declination, would require to be referred to the lunar transit four days preceding.

But though the formulæ furnished by theory can be thus adjusted to represent generally the results of observation for any assigned station, yet our theory is quite incompetent to assign the physicomathematical grounds upon which such adjustments are made: the complete solution of such a problem would probably require a knowledge of the laws of hydrodynamics much beyond that which we

now possess.

The first memoir which was published by Mr. Whewell was an "Essay towards a first approximation to a map of cotidal lines," and appeared in our Transactions for 1833.

By cotidal lines, Mr. Whewell means those lines which may be drawn through all those points of the ocean which have high-water at the same moment of absolute time.

By analysing the movements of the tides as determined by the most simple considerations of the laws of fluid motion in open seas and in channels, and by explaining the circumstances of their convergence or divergence, their interference with each other, their retardation in shallow water, and their consequent tendency to sweep round the coasts and to approach them almost perpendicularly; and further, by discussing very carefully all the materials which nautical surveys and books of navigation could furnish him, Mr. Whewell was enabled to construct a map, which not only represented the general circumstances of the tides of the coasts of Great Britain, but likewise the movement of the great tidal wave, on the coasts of Europe, in the Atlantic Ocean, in the Indian seas, and on the coasts of New Zealand.

It was with a view to correct this first approximation to a map of cotidal lines that Mr. Whewell procured a very extensive series of observations to be made on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland at 547 stations of the Coast Guard for an entire fortnight in These observations were repeated in June, 1835, and were accompanied by simultaneous observations made by the great maritime powers of Europe and North America, at the request of the Government of this country, at various stations on their coasts. The immense mass of observations, thus furnished, were reduced, under Mr. Whewell's directions, at the expense of the Admiralty, and some of the results, which are extremely important and interesting, have been communicated by him to the Royal Society in two Memoirs in our Transactions for 1835 and 1836. The last of these Memoirs was accompanied by a second map of the cotidal lines of the coasts of Europe, accompanied also by indications, effected by a peculiar notation, of the total range, in yards, of the tides at the different stations at which observations had been made.

Many very remarkable conclusions with respect to the motion of the tide-wave have resulted from these observations; amongst others may be mentioned the rotatory motion of the tide-wave which enters the German Ocean between the Orkneys and Norway, sends a southerly detachment along the coasts of Great Britain, which is reflected from the projecting coast of Norfolk upon the north coast of Germany, and meets the main wave again on the coast of Denmark.

It is impossible in the course of a very brief abstract like the present to notice all Mr. Whewell's researches in detail. His second great object was to compare the observed laws of the tides with the theory, or to propose such modifications of the forms of the theory as would reconcile it with the observations.

The interest which attaches to such investigations, which is so great during the progress of the structure which is to be raised upon them, ceases in many cases when the fabric is completed: a remark which is applicable to many of the most important researches and discoveries in philosophy, where we are accustomed to regard the last form only in which the theory is compared with the facts which are observed, and to forget or to neglect the series of

laborious investigations which have led to its establishment, but which are no longer necessary for its explanation or proof. This observation may be applied, in some degree, to his very ingenious Memoir "On the Empirical Laws of the Port of London", in which he attempts to deduce from observation and from very simple general considerations, the character of the formulæ for determining the establishment, the semimenstrual inequality, the corrections for lunar and solar parallax and declination, both as affecting the times and the height of high water. Similar observations may be extended to his papers on the "Empirical Laws of the Tides of the Port of Liverpool," and also on the "solar inequality and diurnal inequality" of the tides at the same place, which are full of valuable suggestions which the subsequent investigations of Mr. Lubbock have, in some cases, very remarkably confirmed and extended.

The last of the series of researches of Mr. Whewell relate to the diurnal inequality of the height of the tide, which the discussion of the tides at Liverpool had exhibited, though under circumstances much less striking than those which characterize its appearance in other places. The first of his memoirs on this subject relates to the diurnal inequality at Plymouth and Sincapore, at the last of which places its magnitude is very remarkable, making a difference of not less than six feet in the height of morning and evening tide, and quite sufficient to obliterate, under certain circumstances, one of the semidiurnal tides, and explaining certain phænomena in the tides which have been considered as cases of interference. Mr. Whewell was led, from certain remarkable changes in the epoch of this phænomenon, which seemed to be deducible from the observations at Bristol, Liverpool and Leith, to suspect that its progress along the coasts of Europe and Great Britain was retarded according to some regular His subsequent discussion, however, of the simultaneous observations made in June, 1835, with an especial view to this inequality, showed that the differences of diurnal inequality were governed by local causes, and consequently negatived altogether the hypothesis of its progressive propagation according to a law distinct from that of the other inequalities of the tides.

The preceding abstract of Mr. Whewell's Researches on the Tides is necessarily very brief and imperfect, and little calculated to convey to the minds of those who have not read his very extensive series of memoirs an adequate notion of the amount of labour and of thought which the discussion of such extensive series of observations must have required.

The importance of the results which have been obtained by him and Mr. Lubbock, may be best estimated by the rapid advancement which has been made in our knowledge of the laws which regulate the movements of the tides during the last six years, and which is entirely owing to their joint labours. Theory, though little cultivated and little known, was then in advance of observation: tide tables were constructed by unpublished rules, which formed a profitable possession to those to whom the secret was known: and the distinctive characters of the tides in the different ports of this king-

dom, that of Liverpool perhaps excepted, were confined to the experience and tact of those who were accustomed to use them; but how different is the case at present! The rules for the construction of tide tables are not only public property, but are based upon the most extensive observations: laws, whose existence was hardly suspected, are now distinctly laid down: the progress of the waves in the most frequented parts of the ocean is beginning to be accurately developed: theory, which was formerly in advance of observation, though greatly improved in those parts of it which do not involve the hydrodynamical laws of the ocean, is now greatly behind it; and such a basis of facts has been laid down as may enable the mathematician to commence such a series of investigations, as may terminate in enabling another Laplace to give to the theory of the tides a form which may rival, in the certainty of its predictions, the almost perfect theories of physical astronomy.

On the motion of Mr. Davies Gilbert, the thanks of the Society were voted to His Royal Highness the President for his excellent Address, accompanied with a request that His Royal Highness would allow it to be printed.

The Statutes relating to the election of Council and Officers were then read by the Secretary; and Joseph Smith and Richard Horsman Solly, Esqrs., being nominated by the Chairman, with the approbation of the Meeting, Scrutators to assist the Secretaries in examining the balloting lists, the votes of the Fellows present were collected.

The ballot being taken, the Scrutators reported the following as the result:

President.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, K.G. Treasurer.—Francis Baily, Esq.

Secretaries.—Peter Mark Roget, M.D.; Samuel Hunter Christie, Esq., MA.

Foreign Secretary.—William Henry Smyth, Capt. R.N. Other Members of the Council.—John Bostock, M.D.; The Earl of Burlington; John George Children, Esq.; John Frederick Daniell, Esq.; Sir Philip Grey Egerton, Bart.; Davies Gilbert, Esq., D.C.L.; Charles Konig, Esq.; The Marquis of Northampton; Rev. George Peacock, M.A.; William Hasledine Pepys, Esq.; Stephen Peter Rigaud, Esq., M.A; John Forbes Royle, M.D.; Benjamin Travers, Esq.; James Walker, Esq; Charles Wheatstone, Esq.; Rev. William Whewell, M.A.

The thanks of the Society were then voted to the Scrutators, for their trouble in assisting at the Election. The following is the statement with respect to the Receipts and Payments of the Society during the preceding year, which was laid on the table by the Treasurer.

Statement of the Receipts and Payments of the Royal Society between Nov. 29, 1836, and Nov. 29, 1837.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the last 33 Weekly Contributions, at one shilling 109 Quarterly Contributions, at £1	 	 		£. s. 533 4 85 16 445 10 230 0 420 0	d. 11 0 0 0)))
Rents:— One year's rent of estate at Mablethorpe: due	£.	s.	d.			
at Michaelmas, (less the expenses of de-						
fending the Tythe suit, £16 13 0) One year's rent of lands at Acton: due at	90	7	0			
Michaelmas	60	0	0			
One year's fee-farm rent of lands in Sussex;		Ŭ	Ŭ			
land-tax deducted: due at Michaelmas	19	4	0			
One fifth of the clear rent of an estate at Lambeth Hill, from the Royal College of Phy-						
sicians, in pursuance of Lady Sadleir's will:						
due at Midsummer	3	0	0			
Dividends on Stock:—				172 11	()
One year's dividend on £14,000 Reduced 3 per						
cent. Annuities	420	0	0			
One year's dividend on £200 Consols	6	0	0			
Dividend on £3452.1. 1 Consols, the produce of the sale of the premises in Coleman-						
street	103	11	2			
Donation Fund.						
One year's dividend on £3820. 19. 3 Consols	114	12	6			
Rumford Fund.						
One year's dividend on £2161. 0. 10 Consols	64	16	8			
Fairchild Fund.						
One year's dividend on £100 New South Sea	3	0	0			
				- 712	0	4
Miscellaneous Receipts:—				_	Ū	•
Sale of Philosophical Transactions Abstracts of Papers	278		2			
Index to the volumes	7 1	18 8	6 6			
				287 14	ŀ	2
/T-4.1.D			_			
Total Receipt	s	· • •	£	2886 16	5	5

PAYMENTS.

	£.	s.	d.
Bakerian Lecture.—William H. Fox Talbot, Esq., for the Bakerian Lecture.	~ . 4	0	0
		_	
Donation Fund. Newman, for Barometer, &c	32	19	3
Cost of £329. 0s. 9d. Consols	300	4	9
British Museum Fund. Baillière for Books	111	2	6
Salaries:—	448	6	6
\pounds . s. d.			
Dr. Roget, one year, as Secretary 105 0 0			
J. G. Children, Esq., one year, as Secretary. 105 0 0			
Ditto for Index to Phil. Trans 5 5 0			
C. Konig, Esq., one year, as Foreign Secretary 20 0 0			
Mr. Roberton, one year, as Assistant-Secretary 160 0 0			
Mr. W. E. Shuckard, one year as Librarian. 50 0 0			
Mr. Holtzer, one year, as Porter 30 0 0			
Ditto, for extra Porterage 10 0 0			
Programme and the second secon	485	5	0
Fire Insurance, on the Society's Property	22	11	6
Mrs. Coppard: Gratuity	10	0	ŏ
Gratuity to the Infant School at Acton	10	Õ	ŏ
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Bills:—			
Taylor:			
On account of printing the Catalogue	200	0	0
Ditto:		-	-
Printing the Phil. Trans., 1836, part 2, and			
1837, part 1; Proceedings, Nos. 26-29,			
and Index; Circulars, Lists of Fellows,			
Ballot-lists, Statement of Payments, and			
Minutes of Council; &c. &c 590 19 11			
Bowles and Gardiner:			
For Paper for the Phil. Trans., 1837, parts			
1 and 2			
Basire:			
For Engraving and Copper-plate Printing			
for Phil. Trans., 1837, parts 1 and 2, &c. 328 2 3			
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Trans., and 250 Abstracts 63 16 8			
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For Engrossing the Address to Queen 5 11 0			
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Saunderson:	0	14	11			
For Shipping Expenses	2	14	11			
For Wax Lights, Candles, and Lamp Oil	36	16	0			
Skelton:						
For Cleaning Chandeliers, and repairing						
Lamps, Locks, &c	7	7	7			
Cubitt: For Repairing Windows, Carpets, &c	7	1	1			
Cobbett and Son:	′	1	ı			
For Window-cleaning and Glazing	2	14	0			
Gwillim:						
For Brushes, Fire wood, &c.	2	17	9			
Exchequer Fee for paying dividend		13	0			
Caldecott:	•	_	_			
For Furniture	28	9	2			
For Coals	35	19	0			
Murray:	00		٠			
For taking Meteorological Observations	7	0	0			
m				150	4	6
Taxes and Parish Rates:			_			
Land Tax	l		6			
Ditto Arrears (2 years)	6 6	-	0			
Church Rate	0	0 15	0			
Rector's Rate		7	0 6			
Sewers Rate	3	•	0			
-				18	5	0
Petty Charges:						
L'Institut	2	5	0			
Silliman's Journal	1	2	6			
Attending Clocks	1		6			
Postage and Carriage	-	15	0			
Extra Messenger	1	3	6			
Expenses on Foreign Packets, &c	_	18				
Stamps	2		6			
Charwoman's Wages	27	6	0			
Extra Charwoman's work	3	7	6			
Miscellaneous expenses	12	15	0	68	17	5
-				- 00	17	<u> </u>
Total Pay	men	ts	a	£2549	12	9
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer				337	3	8
			a ;	£2886	16	5

The Balances in hand, now belonging to the several trusts,	are as	s und	ler :	
viz :		s.		
British Museum Fund	245	3	4	
Donation Fund	109	6	4	
Rumford Fund	194	10	0	

The following table shows the progress and present state of the Society, with respect to the number of Fellows:

	Patron and Honorary.	Foreign.	Having com- pounded.	Paying £2. 12. Annually.	Paying £4 Annually.	Total.
November, 1836	10	46	591	37	109	793
Since elected	1	4	4		22	31
Since deceased, &c.	-1	_2	-24	-3	-1	-31
Since compounded			3	••••	-3	
Defaulters			• • · · · ·	-2	-3	-5
November, 1837	10	48	574	32	124	788